



May 13, 2019

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of OR, we respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 2013 A.

Gun violence represents a public health crisis in the United States. Every year, guns kill almost 30,000 people and injure another 60,000.¹ The brunt of this crisis has been disproportionately placed on women and families.

On average, over 45 women in the US are shot and killed by intimate partners each month and women are five times more likely to be killed during an intimate violence situation when a gun is present.² Roughly 4.5 million women report that an intimate partner has threatened them with a gun. Women in the US are 11 times more likely to be murdered with guns than women in other high income countries, and female intimate partners are more likely to be murdered with a firearm than all other means combined. The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%.

One in four deaths in a mass shooting is a child. Firearms are the third leading cause of death for children in the United States.³ This should not be tolerated.

According to FBI and state crime data analyzed by the Associated Press, at least 6,875 people were fatally shot by romantic partners from 2006 to 2014. Eighty percent of those victims were women. On average, that works out to 554 annual fatal shootings of an American woman by a current or former romantic partner during the nine years examined, or one every 16 hours.⁴

Senate Bill 2013A addresses individuals who possess firearms in violation of a court order or who have been convicted of an offense relating to domestic violence. The bill ensures that this judicial action will take place only after the individual has had an opportunity to be heard.

AAUW of OR seeks to protect the women, girls and families of Oregon from the threats posed by the ever-increasing use of firearms. We ask that you join in preventing this violence.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Garner,

State Public Policy Chair, American Association of University Women of OR (AAUW of OR)

Garner37@mac.com

¹ *Gun Violence: A Threat to Women and Families*, National Partnership for Women and Families, March 2018. This footnote encompasses all the facts cited in this paragraph.

² *Gun Violence*, cited above.

³ *Gun Violence*, cited above

⁴ Jennifer Mascia, *Once Every 16 Hours, an American Woman is Fatally Shot by a Current or Former Romantic Partner*, The Trace, January 30, 2019.